

Appl. No. 09/840,054
Amdt. dated March 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 15, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Introduction

- Claims 1-48 are pending.
- Claims 1, 14, 25, 42, and 43 are amended.
- Claims 17, 40, and 41 are cancelled.
- Claims 47 and 48 are new.
- Claims 1, 6, 8-12, 19-26, 28-33, 35-36, 38-40 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Epstein et al. (US 6,529,600 B1).
- Claims 3-5, 13, 16, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epstein et al. as applied to claims 1, 6, 8-12, 19-26, 28-33, 35-36, 38-40 and 44 above, and further in view of Chaum (US 5,959,717 A).
- Claims 2, 7, 14, 15, 17, 18, 34, 37, 41-43, 45, and 46 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Amended Claims

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 17 which was indicated by the examiner in the Office Action to contained allowable subject matter. Because pending Claim 1 as amended now includes allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner,

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Applicant respectfully submits that this claim is in condition for allowance and that action is respectfully solicited.

B. Claim 14

Claim 14 was objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon rejected base Claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 1. Claim 14 as amended is now in independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this claim is in condition for allowance and that action is respectfully solicited.

C. Claim 25

Claim 25 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claims 40 and 41 which were indicated by the examiner in the Office Action to contained allowable subject matter. Because pending Claim 25 as amended now includes allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that this claim is in condition for allowance and that action is respectfully solicited.

D. Claims 42 and 43

Claim 42 and 43 have been amended to correct the reference to the claims for which they depend, after those claims have been incorporated into independent Claim 25. Because pending Claims 42 and 43 as amended now properly refer to an allowable claim, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are now in condition for allowance and that action is respectfully solicited.

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III. Cancelled Claims

- A.** Claim 17 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1 and is therefore cancelled.
- B.** Claim 40 and 41 have been incorporated into independent Claim 25 and are therefore cancelled.

IV. New Claims 47 and 48

Independent Claims 47 and 48 were suggested to Applicants by the Examiner in a Fax communication dated July 6, 2004 as overcoming the Epstein reference.

After careful review and consideration, Applicants agree with the Examiner and have therefore decided to add these new claims to the application. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are in condition for allowance and that action is respectfully solicited.

V. Conclusion

Because all of the pending claims now include allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and that action is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' agent at the telephone number shown below.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 501450.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension for time, the Commissioner is requested to grant an extension a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 501450.

Respectfully submitted,

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